- Annual grants-in-aid from the government till Prasar Bharati becomes self-sufficient from advertising and commercial revenue;
- Revival of an annual or lumpsum Broadcast Receiver Licence Fee for television sets;
- The cost of running public service broadcasting channels to be met from Government's funding by way of grant-in-aid, equity or loan;
- Certain suggestions relate to creation of professional marketing set-up, aggressive marketing strategies, dedication of particular channels to education, etc.

Handling of High Power Locos at Asansol

2442. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asansol electric shed is capable for handling of high power electric locos;

(b) if so, reasons for not homing high power locos at Asansol;

(c) whether the Government are considering for homing high power electric locos at there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing infrastructure facilities at Asansol electric locoshed are suitable for maintenance of 4 axled locomotives and not for 6 axled high power locomotives.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Expansion of certain facilities like inspection pits, cranes of higher capacity etc. will be undertaken in due course, when 4 axled locos are phased out and 6 axled high power locomotives are homed for maintenance.

[Translation]

Direct Train from Delhi to Rewa

2443. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no direct rail services has been provided from Delhi to Rewa in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the Prayag Express upto Rewa is likely to be started;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted for linking Singrauli with Rewa rail line;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The feasibility of providing direct train service between Rewa and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Based on the results of the survery, the work of construction of a new line from Lalitpur to Satna and Rewa to Singrauli at a cost of Rs. 925 crores has been included in the Budget 1997-98. The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(g) Does not arise.

Annual Budget to Doordarshan

2444. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Doordarshan, New Delhi sends the annual budget to various Doordarshan Kendras to prepare commissioned and royalty programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount given to these Doordarshan kendras as budget during the last three years alongwith the names of the kendras which were not sent the budget amount;

(c) whether the annual budget for the year 1997-98 has been sent to all the Doordarshan kendras;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and by which time it would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Launch of Unit of NTPS in West Bengal

2445. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are goint to launch more three units at NTPS in West Bengal;